



PATENT

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## IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Re Application of:

Takao HASEGAWA et al.

Application No.: 10/530,563

Filed: April 7, 2005

For: STAPLE CASE

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)  
) Confirmation No.: 8997  
)  
) Group Art Unit: 3728  
)  
) Examiner: Reynolds, Steven Alan  
)  
)

Commissioner for Patents  
U.S. Patent and Trademark Office  
Alexandria, VA 22314

Sir:

**INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(d)**

Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.56 and 1.97(d), Applicants bring to the attention of the Examiner the documents listed on the attached PTO Form 1449. This Information Disclosure Statement is being filed after the events recited in § 1.97(c) but on or before the payment of the issue fee for the above-identified application. Under the provisions of 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(d), a fee of \$180.00, as specified by § 1.17(p) is due for filing this IDS. The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge this \$180.00 fee to Deposit Account No. 50-0310.

Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(e)(1), each item of information contained in this IDS was first cited in a Search Report issued by the European Patent Office on November 12, 2008 in a corresponding European patent application not more than three months prior to the filing of this IDS. A copy of the European Search Report and the cited reference are attached for the Examiner's consideration. Cited reference US 6,371,352 is not included as it was cited in an IDS filed on April 7, 2005.

The document listed on the accompanying PTO Form 1449 is in a language other than English. A concise relevance for the non-English document listed may be of these documents can be ascertained from the English language Abstract, the figure therein, and the European Search Report.

This submission does not represent that a search has been made or that no better art exists and does not constitute an admission that the listed document is material or constitutes "Prior Art." If it should be determined that the listed document does not constitute "Prior Art" under United States law, Applicants reserve the right to present to the Office the relevant facts and law regarding the appropriate status of such document.

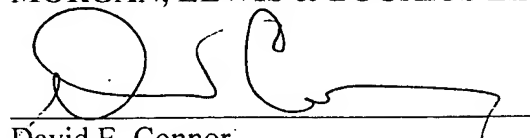
Applicants further reserve the right to take appropriate action to establish the patentability of the disclosed invention over the listed document, should the document be applied against the claims of the present application.

**EXCEPT** for issue fees payable under 37 C.F.R. § 1.18, the Commissioner is hereby authorized by this paper to charge any additional fees during the entire pendency of this application including fees due under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 and 1.17 which may be required, or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account 50-0310.

Respectfully submitted,

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Dated: December 22, 2008  
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